

A1
and.
(c) contacting said preparatory layer with said pattern sheet and the pattern sheet thereon for a sufficient time to allow said medium to transfer onto said preparatory layer where a transferred pattern transfers onto said preparatory layer;

(d) removing said pattern sheet from contact with said viscous preparatory layer after the transferred pattern has been transferred thereon yet before said preparatory layer has cured into the final state; and

(e) curing said preparatory layer into the final state thereby fixing the transferred pattern.

Claim 6, line 1, delete "5" and substitute --1--.

Claim 7, line 1, delete "5" and substitute --1--.

Claim 15, line 1, delete "14" and substitute --32--.

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12-17. (Once Amended) A method of decorating a surface of an item of produce that has an area of sufficient size to display a design, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a pattern sheet with the pattern pre-printed thereon in a [selected] water soluble medium;

(b) covering the area with a water-based surface preparatory composition that has an initial first state that allows it to be spread onto the surface of the item as a viscous preparatory layer yet which cures into a final state to form a stably layer adhered to the surface, said selected medium being selected as one that will transfer onto said surface preparatory composition when in the initial state;

(c) contacting said preparatory layer with said pattern sheet for a sufficient time to allow said medium to transfer onto said preparatory layer whereby a transferred pattern transfers

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onto said preparatory layer and thereafter removing said pattern sheet within a time insufficient to allow said pattern sheet to become affixed to said item of produce; and

(d) allowing said preparatory layer to cure into said final state thereby fixing the transferred pattern on said stable layer.

Claim 20, line 1, delete "18" and substitute --17--.

Kindly cancel claims ~~2, 5, 14, 18~~ and 19.

Kindly add the following claims:

A3
15 32. [Rewritten claim 14] A method of decorating a surface of an item that has an area adapted to display a design, comprising the steps of:

(a) covering the area with a surface preparatory composition that has an initial first state that is sufficiently viscous to allow it to be spread onto the surface of the item as a preparatory layer, said surface preparatory composition being selected from a group consisting of: water-based non-animal glues, water-based animal glues, water-based pastes and egg white;

(b) providing a pattern sheet with the pattern formed thereon in a medium that will transfer onto said surface preparatory composition when in the initial state; and

(c) contacting said preparatory layer with said pattern sheet and the pattern thereon for a sufficient time to allow said medium to transfer onto said preparatory layer where a transferred pattern transfers onto said preparatory layer.